

THIS SATURDAY MORNING AT THE FLICKS WE ARE ALL WATCHING LOCKDOWN CITY, A GREAT WESTERN.

Kid Piffle gathers his gang round a table in the back room of the Dominator Saloon. He gives the order, "Masks on". There is only one item on the agenda, "Which stagecoach shall we rob next?" Eventually it is agreed that it will be the Welfare Stage because the horses pulling it are old and tired and the guard's gun has no bullets left. Everybody thinks that the Kid is in charge but after the gang have dispersed he must report to the real owner of the saloon. To signal his approach he whistles 'I've Got to Leave Old Durham Town.' It is their password and the door opens for him to receive further orders.

This allows him to miss the arrival of the hands from the NHS Corral where they have been herding. Up to the bar they go ordering neat chlorine. "Just give us the bottle."

Down the street people are preparing to go to chapel. Some are sad that old Pastor Corbyn had to retire. He gave them That Old Time Religion. What will his replacement, Pastor Starmer be like? They notice that the collection box is bigger and has the words 'Notes Only' stuck on the side. He begins with Readings From the Book of Likud. "In the beginning was The Word Newspaper". "Who put that there?" he screams and tears out the page. The congregation are made to sit up and pay attention. He tells them to expect some excommunications. He is fully aware that certain members have neglected to memorise the Starmian Creed, which goes:

**I BELIEVE IN NETANYAHU
MAY HIS KINGDOM HAVE NO BOUNDARIES
I BELIEVE IN HIS DISCIPLE, SIR KEIR QC
AND, MOST OF ALL, I BELIEVE ANYTHING
THAT I AM TOLD TO BELIEVE BY SIR KEIR**

There are mutterings among the congregation as they leave but it is noticeable that some have rushed over to the new Pastor to offer their congratulations and show that they are willing to light the candles for him.

As we leave the flicks, we wonder what next Saturday will bring. Shall the Welfare Stage escape? Shall everyone in Lockdown City be forced to learn the Starmian Creed? Shall some fearless few flock to the previous Pastor to build a new chapel? What was the name of that town he went to live in? Tombstone?

BRING BACK NIXON

That is now the cry of Republicans across the USA. Have you seen the opera Nixon in China? It is based upon Nixon's visit in 1972 when he tried to achieve a degree of détente that was spectacularly ambitious. It seemed to work. It was often said that only Nixon could have done it because he was so well-known to be anti communist. We remember him for Watergate. I particularly loved his phrase, "There will be no whitewash at the Whitehouse." Nixon was a lawyer but I am afraid that when it came to preparing his own defence he let himself

down badly. The big comparison back then was between Nixon and Kennedy. 'Would you buy a used car from this man?' He was seen to be shady while we were invited to admire Kennedy. Kennedy gave us the Bay of Pigs and Vietnam while Nixon shook hands with Mao.

Perhaps back then we simply had a better class of villain. These days it seems that any idiot can pass the political villainy test. Denis Brogan described the US political parties as "Two bottles with different labels, both empty." Today he might have to change his description. Political wine tasters would definitely spit out the contents of the Democratic bottle but, as for the Republican bottles of today, their noses would warn them not to bring their lips anywhere near. Had Clinton become President we knew what to expect. A lot of blood would have been spilled. With Trump it is the unexpected that we have learned to expect. But it comes with disdain for international agreements, for human rights of any kind and for anyone standing up to him. It also comes with blood.

As with Kid Piffle do not expect attention to detail, best not to protest against injustice. And when it comes to racism they both have problems with the word 'systemic'. Once you begin to use that word you have to acknowledge that not only is there such a thing as society but that this means that the relationships between groups of people are organised systematically. There is no guarantee that this will be done equally and every likelihood that it will not. Remember that the Blessed Margaret told Woman's Own that there was no such thing as society, only individuals, at best families. The Trumppo Kid has repeatedly told us about the superiority of his genes. Throw in Social Darwinism (a Churchill belief) and it is so easy, so natural, to justify inequality. 'My genes are better than your genes'. What is the easiest way to spot these genes that such people go on about? Skin colour. The father-in-law of Dominic Cummings is most definitely a gene believer.

Our leaders want us, need us, to believe that the ordering of society is natural; that any unfairness is accidental and can be fixed without major surgery. Make big changes, especially changes that redistribute wealth and power, and our leaders become both dismissive and defensive.

Bring back the old political villains. We knew where we stood with the likes of Nixon. He was a baddy but when it was in his interest he could do something good.

PRIMEMINISTERIAL CAR CRASH DESTROYS CHURCHILL'S STATUE AND REPUTATION

The more Johnson asserts that Churchill was not racist the more facts emerge demonstrating not only his deep racism but also revealing the millions that died and suffered because of it. We must add class to race in the case of Churchill and so many like him. The word 'civilisation' or 'civilised' was widely used as though it was in defence of civilisation that we subdued, exploited and killed so many people, including our own working class. Remember that on the 24th. May, Queen Victoria's birthday, we celebrated Empire Day. Today we continue to award Empire medals to people. The joke was that if you knew

someone with an OBE you called it Other Buggers' Efforts and if you got the inferior MBE you referred to it as My own Bloody Effort.

It is not a totally verified remark but so many of us want to believe that the following exchange took place. "Mr. Gandhi, what do you think of western civilisation?" "I think it would be a good idea."

People like Churchill and Johnson shared a view that, mostly, the world was divided into superiors and inferiors. Where do you think they placed themselves? Like Hitler and Himmler and company Churchill had a view of a 'superior' Aryan race. We are still stuck with people who choose to mistake families of languages for people of different races. There is no such thing as a Semitic race but try telling that to Zionists such as Starmer or, for that matter, Johnson. It is as though we are condemned always to see each other through a racial prism. I include class in that because if, for example, you 'failed' the 11-Plus then clearly you are an inferior racial specimen.

Churchill thought in terms of hierarchies. He, like Johnson, became Top Man. His record of capturing history to serve his own purpose, to boost his own reputation, is far beyond what Johnson will manage. But let me cite Giles Radice in *Odd Couples* (2015). He was writing about the difference between Attlee and Churchill when chairing a cabinet meeting, quoting a member of the wartime coalition cabinet. 'When Attlee takes the chair, Cabinet meetings are business-like and efficient, we keep to the agenda, make decisions and get away in reasonable time. When Churchill presides, nothing is decided; we listen enthralled and go home, many hours later, feeling that we have been present at an historic occasion.'

Is anyone planning a statue for Johnson?

Cliff Jones 20th. June 2020

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